



**An Roinn Airgeadais
Department of Finance**

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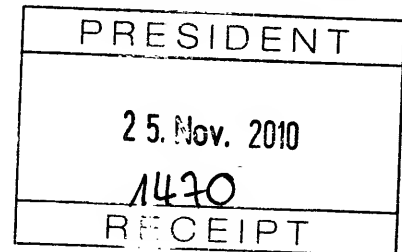
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21 November 2010

Mr Olli Rehn
Commissioner on Economic and Monetary Affairs
European Commission

Mr Dominique Strauss-Kahn
Managing Director
IMF

Mr Jean-Claude Trichet
President
European Central Bank



Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Irish Authorities, I am writing to formally apply for financial assistance in the context of a joint EU-IMF programme. The external assistance sought is made under the terms of the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, the European Financial Stability Facility and the IMF assistance programme.

I welcome the statement by the Eurogroup and ECOFIN Ministers which concurred with the EU Commission and the ECB that providing assistance to Ireland is warranted to safeguard financial stability in the EU and in the euro area.

The Irish Authorities will cooperate fully in the preparation of the joint EU-IMF programme of assistance to the Irish State that will now be required to be developed.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Lenihan TD
Minister for Finance

cc Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Eurogroup President
Mr Didier Reynders, European Union Presidency

